Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

UNCLAS PANAMA 3693

MEXICO FOR USTC

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, PN
SUBJ: SPECIAL TRADE OPPORTUNITY - AIR TERMINAL AND
GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR NEW TOCUMEN
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REF: A) PANAMA A-93, MAY 16, 1974 B) PANAMA 3602, JUNE 22, 1974

PASS INFO EXIMBANK

1. SUMMARY. RECENT DECISION BY DIRECCION DE AERONAUTICA
CIVIL (DAC) TO ATTEMPT TO EXPEDITE PROCUREMENT VIA NEGOTIATED
CONTRACTS OF UP TO \$6 MILLION OF THE EQUIPMENT ITEMS FOR NEW
TOCUMEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT REPRESENTS MAJOR EXPORT
OPPORTUNITY. THESE ITEMS, FROM PASSENGER AND BAGGAGE
MOVEMENT EQUIPMENT TO MORE COMPLEX NAVIGATION AIDS AND
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, ARE DEDUCTIBLE OPTIONS ON BID
SCHEDULE FOR NEW TOCUMEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PHASE III,
TERMINAL CONTROL TOWER, GROUND SUPPORT, UTILITIES REPORTED
REF A). FOREIGN SUPPLIERS MAY BY JULY 20 SUBMIT
"LETTER OF INTENT" CONTAINING DATA ON APPROXIMATE COST,
SUPPLIER CREDIT OR OTHER FINANCING IF AVAILABLE.
ON AUGUST 1 PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS PRIME TERMINAL CONTRACT
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ARE TO BE PROVIDED BID DOCUMENTS REFLECTING WHICH

ITEMS TO BE DEDUCTED FOR SEPARATE, NEGOTIATED CONTRACT PURCHASE. SUPPLIER CREDIT/ECIM FINANCING HIGHLY DESIRED FOR LATTER. SPECIAL USDOC HANDLING, POSSIBLY BY MEPD, NEEDED TO INFORM PRESPECTIVE SUPPLIERS AND FACILITIATE EXIM FINANCING. END SUMMARY

2. IN AN EFFORT TO RECOVER FROM SCHEDULING DEALYS AND COST OVERRUNS ON THE NEW TOCUMEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT, DAC HAS DECIDED TO ATTEMPT PROCUREMENT DIRECT FROM FOREIGN SUPPLIERS OF KEY EQUIPMENT FOR THIS PROJECT. AS REPORTED REF A, CONTRACTORS PRE-QUALIFIED BY JUNE 30 WILL BE INVITED AUGUST 1 TO SUBMIT BIDS BY NOVEMBER 1 ON OVERALL PROJECT (PHASE III) FOR TERMINAL, CONTROL TOWER, CRASH-RESCUE BUILDING, UTILITIES/SERVICE/GROUND-SUPPORT FACILITIES. HOWEVER, UNTIL JULY 20 DAC WILL CONSIDER PROPOSALS FROM MANUFACTURERS/SUPPLIERS FOR PROCUREMENT UNDER NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS FOR FOLLOWING: PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES, ELEVATORS AND DUMBWAITERS, BAGGAGE CONVEYER SYSTEMS, ESCALATORS, PA SYSTEM, FLIGHT INFO DISPLAY AND CLOCK SYSTEM. AIRCRAFT GUIDE-IN SYSTEM. TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, CONTROL TOWER INTEGRATED COMMO SYSTEM, MAIN AND STANDBY ELECTRICAL PLANT SYSTEMS AND POSSIBLY ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. THESE ITEMS, VALUED AT \$3-6 MILLION OUT OF \$20 TO 25 MILLION PHASE III ESTIMATED COST, ARE NUMBERED 26 AND 28 TO 38 OF BID SCHEDULE WHICH COURIER POUCHED BY EMBASSY TODAY TO STATE DEPARTMENT ADDRESSED USDOC/MEPD/BIC 262, ETA JUNE 27 AT STATE.

3. IBRD, WHICH PROVIDING \$20 MILLION LOAN FOR ENTIRE PROJECT, INCLUDING RUNWAYS, LIGHTING, HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO EXTRACTING THESE PRIME ITEMS FROM PHASE III BIDDING. HOWEVER, PROPOSALS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY DAC BY JULY 20 TO ENABLE IT AMEND PROJECT BID DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO IBRD FOR APPROVAL. PROPOSALS CAN BE "LETTERS OF INTENT," RATHER THAN FIRM COMMITMENT, AND SHOULD SHOW APPROXIMATE PRICE, STATE SUPPLIER/OTHER FINANCING AND TERMS. FIRMS MAKING PROPOSALS THEN WOULD BE SELECTED FOR NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLY AND, AS NEEDED, FOR INSTALLATION OR CHECKOUT SERVICES. UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENT PLAN IS FOR PRIME CONTRACTOR TO MAKE INSTALLATIONS WHERE POSSIBLE. MEANWHILE (AUGUST-OCTOBER) PREQUALIFIED BIDDERS ON OVERALL TERMINAL PROJECT WOULD PREPARE BIDS LESS THESE EQUIPMENT ITEMS.

4. WHILE MAIN REASON FOR SEPARATE PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT IS THAT PROJECT BEHIND SCHEDULE, DAC HAS ENCOUNTERED COST OVERRUNS, AND ADDITIONAL FINANCING NEEDED. SO IT HOPES THAT

EXPORT CREDIT AGENCIES OF PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE JOIN PROSPECTIVE SUPPLIERS IN EXTENDING CREDITS. IF WARRANTED BY PROJECT SIZE AND JULY 20 DEADLINE, USDOC MAY WISH ESTABLISH SMALL TASK FORCE IN MEPD TO CONTACT SUPPLIERS AND DISCUSS EITHER PACKAGE OR INDIVIDUAL SUPPLIER FINANCING WITH EXIMBANK.

5. DAC HAS PREFERENCE FOR US EQUIPMENT BECAUSE OF ADMITTEDLY BETTER PARTS, SERVICE FROM US FIRMS.
WESTINGHOUSE SUPPLYING RUNWAY LIGHTS, PARSONS (CALIFORNIA) WAS CONSULTANT ON DESIGN, SO US SPECIFICATIONS USED.
HANNON ENGINEERING (LOS ANGELES) ADVISED PARSONS ON PA SYSTEM. DAC INTERESTED IN ITT COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DATEX DIV OF CONRAC CORP (DUARTE, CALIF.) ON RELATED GEAR. AMONG PRIME CONTRACTORS EXPRESSING INTEREST IN PROJECT ARE PERINI (BOSTON AND CALIFORNIA), M-K, CAPITAL SHLOMO-GLICKSBERG, BOECON, (N.J.). DAC ALSO INTERESTED IN FISCHBAK & MOORE, INC. (DALLAS) FOR ELECTRICAL CONTRACT.

6. BID DOCUMENTS, SPECIFICATIONS AVAILABLE AT IBRD (KENNETH EWING) AND PARSONS CO. USDOC SHOULD RECEIVE ONE SET DOCUMENTS MENTIONED PARA ONE ABOVE ON JUNE 27.

7. INTERESTED US SUPPLIERS MAY ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS TO HECTOR ABAD, DIRECTOR OF DAC OR AIRPORT PROJECT OFFICERS DANIEL JIMENEZ OR ALFONSO REGIS AT:

DIRECCION DE AERONAUTICA CIVIL BOX 7501 PANAMA T, PANAMA

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TAGS: BEXP, PN To: COM

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005